REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The claims have been amended to overcome the rejection of claims 1-23 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is deemed to be warranted.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 10-12, 17 and 22 have been amended to replace the expressions "pipe" and "communications pipe" with the expression "established communications pipe." These changes serve to clarify the claims and are considered to be non-narrowing. Therefore, no estoppel should be deemed to be attachable thereto.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 10-12, 17, and 22 have been amended to better define the subject matter that the Applicants regard as their invention. Support for the features added to the claims is provided at least in claims 1 and 20 of U.S. patent application number 09/844,246, the disclosure of which is incorporated into the present application by reference.

Claims 1-23 were rejected, under 35 USC §102(e), as being anticipated by Audebert (US 6,694,436). The Applicants respectfully traverse.

In amended independent claims 1, 12 and 17, when an APDU is desencapsulated from an incoming message packet, it is routed to

the personal security device by the local client, without checking its integrity or origin. This makes the local client completely transparent in the transmission of data between the remote server and the personal security device through the communications pipe.

US '436 does not teach the above-noted subject matter.

Instead, US '436 discloses a system for performing secure electronic transactions suited for transferring at least an elementary command between a first remote computer system (FAp on PC and/or SAP) and a personal security device 31 using a local client 1 as a communication host for the personal security device. The remote server and the local client are functionally connected via a network R. The personal security device and the local client are directly functionally connected via a personal security device interface 6.

As described in col. 16, lines 58-61 of US '436, the personal security device comprises at least one embedded application, a microprocessor, a runtime environment and a memory location. Moreover, in one embodiment of US '436, a high level request sent by the remote computer system can contain a single elementary command to be transferred to the personal security device, for example, an APDU in the case of a smart card (see col. 10, lines 7-11), which can be considered as reproducing the

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feature according to which the local client comprises means for receiving incoming message packets from the remote computer system, separating encapsulated APDUs from the incoming message packets thus generating desencapsulated APDUs and routing the desencapsulated APDUs to the PSD through the personal security device interface.

But in the system of US '436, when an APDU is desencapsulated from an incoming message packet, before being transferred to the personal security device by the local client, the filter F always checks the integrity and the origin of the incoming message packet (col. 10, lines 7 to 14).
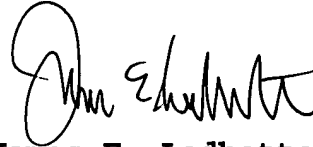
Accordingly, it is submitted that the amended claims patentably distinguish over US '436, in that they recite that, when an APDU is desencapsulated from an incoming message packet, it is routed to the personal security device by the local client, without checking its integrity or origin. Thus, the 35 USC 102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone

the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number

listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JEL/DWW/att

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